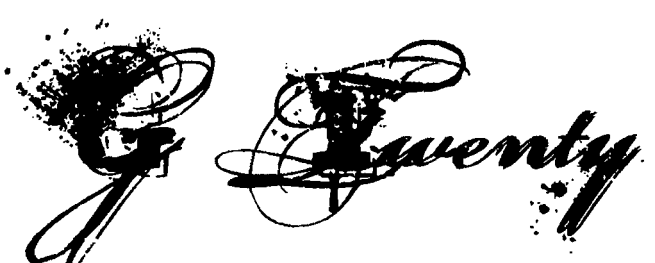
Plan B

a call for decentralised resistance to the



We did not want to be here again

We've been on the streets before. Carried placards and banners and signed petitions and when nobody listened we've thrown bricks and set skips on fire. But we've got meals to cook, gardens to grow, books to read, loves to tend. We don't want to be here, doing this.

This is plan B.

We just don't think we have a choice. The gap between rich and poor is still growing. Children routinely die starving while hoarded food rots. The world moves daily closer to irreversible climate change. Profits flow through borders unimpeded (always into the pockets of the rich) but people are caught in razor wire traps. Alongside Eugene Debs, we recognise our kinship with all living beings. We say that while there is a lower class, we are in it; and while there is a criminal element, we are of it; and while there is a soul in prison (or an illegal detention centre), we are not free. These circumstances force us to fight. Fight for our lives.

And we have a plan.

The G20 is meeting in Brisbane in November. This elite decision making body epitomises the undemocratic nature of state-sponsored global capitalism; delegates from the 20 wealthiest economic zones make self-serving proclamations which affect everyone, without open discussion or oversight. The meeting has been faced with fierce resistance everywhere it has gone but this opposition has been smashed by the heavy hand of the militarised police forces which define our century. We're sick of seeing our comrades beaten and arrested. We've learnt from these mistakes. We have a plan B. Instead of gathering our strength and marching into the traps they have set for us we are calling for disseminated disorder. Rather than an arterial block, we want to see a distributed attack on the peripheries.

We are calling for people to form affinity groups in their home towns and autonomously organise decentralised direct action against the G20 and the capitalist occupation of our lives.

See you on the streets

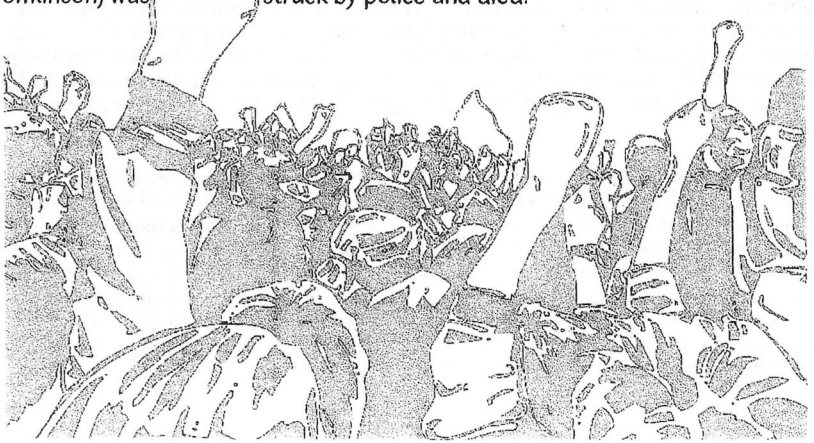
brief history

The G20 was formed in 1999 in the face of mounting criticism of the G8's undemocratic manipulation of global economic policy. Intended to legitimise the G8/G20 process as a more inclusive group of economic superpowers, the G8 announced in 2008 that it would cede some of its authority to the G20. Regardless, G20 meetings have attracted mass protests over the years on issues ranging from anti-globalisation, anti-capitalism, environmental destruction, social justice, labour rights, war, and indigenous rights. *Every* G20 Summit since 2008 has faced protest action. What has characterised the state's response to these protests is a an overwhelming abuse of power.

In 2006 Melbourne hosted the G20 and saw protests of more than 3000 people. The Arterial Bloc formed part of the protests having put out a call to go prepared for radical disobedience:

"...We are choosing not be compliant citizens. Rather, we are relying only on our own disobedience".

These radical UN-citizens successfully disrupted the conference to some degree, but faced a witch hunt and character assassinations for months afterwards. The 2009 Pittsburgh G20 Summit saw a denial of the right to protest until the American Council of Civil Liberties successfully sued the city of Pittsburgh, forcing them to issue permits for demonstrations. Up to 8000 people participated in protests over the course of the summit, with police using pepper spray and, for the first time in the United States, a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD/sound cannon) to break up the demonstrations. Over 35,000 people protested at London's G20 meeting in 2009, as well as 5000 people attending the G20 Meltdown protest. This protest was kettled by police for up to seven hours, during which time a bystander (newspaper vendor Ian Tomlinson) was struck by police and died.



In Toronto in 2010, 10,000 people joined a march against the G20, with over 1000 arrests during the various protests making it the largest mass arrest in Canadian history (though 800 people were released without charge). Rubber bullets, pepper spray and tear gas were used by police. At each G20 summit, security measures and brutality increase.

Repression on the rise

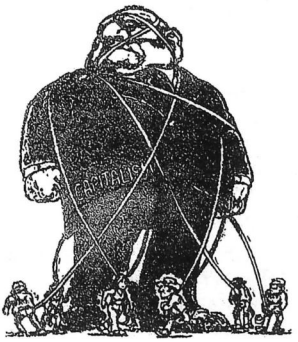
The build up to the G20 in Brisbane has been terrifying. The newspapers, the politicians and the police are all frothing at the mouth over special zones, extra police powers and sinister anarchists hell-bent on destroying the reputation of their 'new world city'. While this kind of hype is fairly standard practice for this kind of conference, its hard not to get caught up in it and start hyperventilating over the prospect of living in a police state. The preparations are being cited as possibly the biggest security operation in Australia, ever. "...you probably won't start to notice barricading of any type around the hotels or the BCEC until about 10 days to a week out..." says Queensland Police Service assistant commissioner Katarina Carroll. The RNA Showgrounds will become a restricted area on November 7, followed by Suncorp Stadium and the Pullman Hotel on November 9, the Treasury and Royal on the Park hotels on November 10, the Marriott and Stamford hotels on November 11, the Novotel and Rydges hotels on November 12 and the Hilton and Sofitel hotels on November 13. The rest of the inner-city will become a declared area on November 14, during which police will have increased powers to search and detain people for the duration of the G20. There will be 5000 police on the streets of Brisbane, including 3500 Queensland officers, all on a 24-hour roster.

Its almost like they know we hate police.

It would be real nice to go and ruin their party, but these people are off their faces! We are staying the fuck away from their insane power orgy. Some community activist came out and said "We're very appreciative of the fact that the assistant commissioner [Katarina Carroll] has come out and said that she'd respect lawful protest in Brisbane at that time." That's right folks, you'll be happy to learn that the pigs are, very kindly, assigning designated zones for peaceful protest. 'but what's wrong with protesting in the designated area?' we hear you say.

The state attempts to control and limit protest with all the means at their disposal. But the need to maintain control is balanced by the need to maintain legitimacy in the eyes of the subjected public. One of the tactics used in this dual pursuit is the establishment of "free speech zones"; areas in which protest is allowed by the state, and which are isolated from the rest of the world. Contrary to the aims of civil disobedience (disrupting everyday life until maintaining the status quo is impossible), free speech zones make protest irrelevant, removing any inconvenience it might pose to those in power. Besides the purely tactical concerns of facilitating police control of protest, utilising a "free speech zone"

legitimates state control of rebellion. At the same time, the legitimation of one group of protesters serves to deligitamise others.

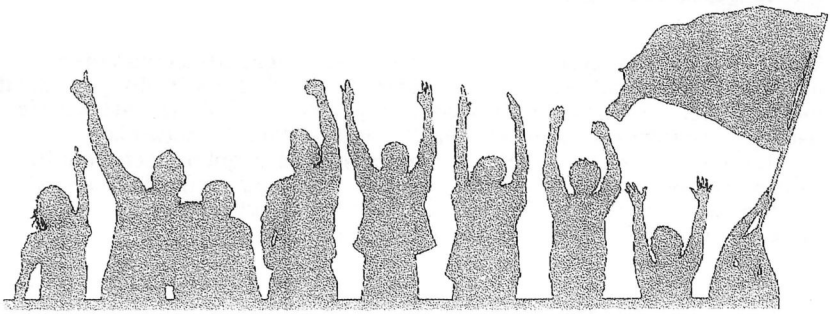


The delegates will be choking on their caviar, laughing at the people in the designated protest area, that is if they don't completely ignore them. The idea is a farce and an insult to any earnest notion of democracy that might still exist in this country. Nothing would make me more depressed than standing around in a designated peaceful protest zone without even a banner or an egg (banned objects.) But that'll we do instead? If they've intimidated us (a year in advance) from going there to protest, does that mean they've already won?

Nah.

There's so much stuff we can do, everywhere else! They are throwing so much money, time and energy into putting on the g20 circus, showing the world they are as bourgeois, brutal and repressive as the other richest cities in the world; they are grooming an image of control and authority, of infallible power. We must remember its all strutting and showmanship, but that power and force will be very real and very brutal for those weeks around the conference. We must accept that they have control, there and for that time. But only for that time, and only there. We have a huge country to play in. Those 'delegates' will come visit other cities. The hotels those 'delegates' stay in exist all over the place. Those politicians and political parties who welcome the g20 have accomplices everywhere. The Queensland police are the Vic police are the NT police are the SA police...see what I'm getting at? The only geographical or strategic boundaries to our actions are self-imposed.

Just imagine, while the pigs are helplessly patrolling the streets of Brisbane's CBD in their ridiculous armour with their intimidating vehicles, decentralised waves of creation and destruction will ebb and flow right across the country, completely out of their rotten sight. There is nothing more beautiful we can think of.



How this works

An affinity group is a crew, a gang or a group of friends with shared political aims, goals or tactics. Affinity groups can be impermanent and specific to a particular event (like the G20) but they can also be active in a more ongoing context. In terms of organising, these kinds of summits are useful as a catalyst for directing our anger, but they are only the most obvious congregation of everything we despise.

Everything they represent and work towards is happening regularly all over the globe. What we mean is; let's be disgusted and terrified by this gathering - but understand it as a flashpoint, existing within the daily, mundane terrorism of capitalism. For this reason we reckon ongoing affinity groups are a great idea!

Affinity groups are (or at least we think they should be) organised horizontally - that is, on anti-authoritarian lines. Everyone has equal say and there are no leaders. A small group can operate on its own, or as part of a larger group. Larger groups made up of smaller groups can be organised somewhat formally with spokescouncils. This way we have the benefit of larger groups of people, but also the fast direct-democratic decision-making capabilities of a small group of friends. Basically, the best of both worlds.

Affinity groups may not need to or want to engage in larger scale decision-making, but if they do they'll need a spokes. The spokes is not a leader (obviously!) but a person appointed to communicate the decisions and positions of their group. Spokes should rotate every action. One example where spokes and spokes council will make things a whole lot easier is a street party/protest/blockade which requires lots of people. Instead of having 'protest organisers' telling us what we should do, and 'marshals' or 'peace police' enforcing it, spokescouncil allows for mass direct democracy, quickly, as well as autonomy.

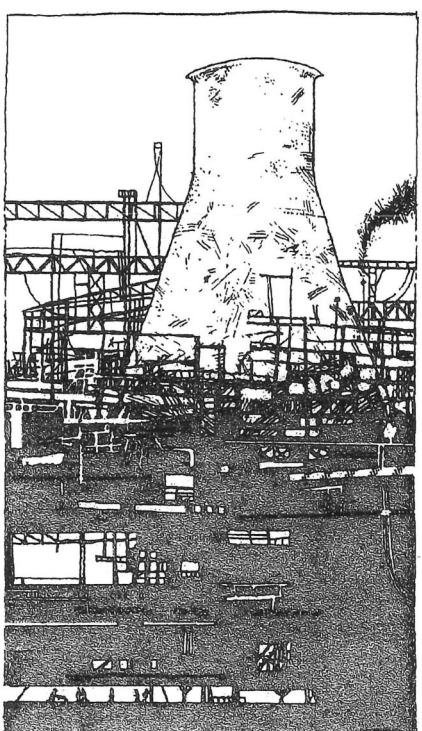
On Communication

If you or your affinity group is making plans which might attract unwanted attention from the police (or if you are trying to coordinate with other groups) it might be useful to communicate in ways they can't intercept. We can't provide hard and fast rules for communicating the organisation of a networked resistance to G20 but we've got a few things we think might be useful, but the ways we communicate will have to be determined by our circumstances. First and foremost; stay safe! If you have a strong security culture in place they won't be able to infiltrate your group.

A security culture is a set of customs shared by a community whose members may be targeted by the government, designed to minimise risk. A good security culture should make everyone feel more relaxed and confident, not less.

Having a security culture in place saves everyone the trouble of having to work out safety measures over and over from scratch, and can help offset paranoia and panic in stressful situations. If you're in the habit of not giving away anything sensitive about yourself, you can collaborate with strangers without having to agonise about whether or not they are informers; if everyone knows what not to talk about over the telephone, your enemies can tap the line all they want and it won't get them anywhere.

Don't ask others to share confidential information you don't need to know. Don't brag about illegal things you or others have done, or mention things that are going to happen or might happen; don't let chance allusions drop out thoughtlessly. Likewise, don't answer any questions you don't want to—not just with police officers, but also with other activists and even close friends: if there's something you don't feel safe sharing, don't. This also means being comfortable with others not answering questions: if there's a conversation they want to keep to themselves, or they ask you not to be part of a meeting or project, you shouldn't take this personally—it's for everyone's good that they're free to do so.



Small groups can take walks and chat; larger groups can meet in quiet outdoor settings—go hiking or camping, if there's time—or in private rooms in public buildings, such as library study rooms or empty classrooms.

Be conscious of how long you've known people, how far back their involvement in your community and their lives outside of it can be traced, and what others' experiences with them have been. Make sure only to trust your safety and the safety of your projects to level-headed folks who share the same priorities and commitments and have nothing to prove.

Security concerns should never be an excuse for making others feel left out or inferior—though it can take some finesse to avoid that!—just as no one should feel they have a "right" to be in on anything others prefer to keep to themselves. Those who violate the security culture of their communities should not be rebuked too harshly the first time—this isn't a question of being hip enough to activist decorum to join the in-group, but of establishing group expectations and gently helping people understand their importance; besides, people are least able to absorb constructive criticism when they're put on the defensive. Nevertheless, such people should always be told immediately how they're putting others at risk, and what the consequences will be should they continue to. Those who can't grasp this must be tactfully but effectively shut out of all sensitive situations.

Learning to gauge the risks posed by an activity or situation and how to deal with them appropriately is not just a crucial part of staying out of jail; it also helps to know what you're not worried about, so you don't waste energy on unwarranted, cumbersome security measures. Keep in mind that a given action may have different aspects that demand different degrees of security; make sure to keep these distinct. Here's an example of a possible rating system for security levels:

1. Only those who are directly involved in the action know of its existence.
2. Trusted support persons also know about the action, but everyone in the group decides together who these will be.
3. It is acceptable for the group to invite people to participate who might choose not to—that is, some outside the group may know about the action, but are still expected to keep it a secret.
4. The group does not set a strict list of who is invited; participants are free to invite others and encourage them to do the same, while emphasising that knowledge of the action is to be kept within the circles of those who can be trusted with secrets.
5. "Rumours" of the action can be spread far and wide through the community, but the identities of those at the centre of the organising are to be kept a secret.
6. The action is announced openly, but with at least some degree of discretion, so as not to tip off the sleepier of the authorities.
7. The action is totally announced and aboveground in all ways.

It also makes sense to choose the means of communication you will use according to the level of security demanded. Here's an example of different levels of communications security, corresponding to the system just outlined above:

1. No communication about the action except in person, outside the homes of those involved, in surveillance-free environments (e.g. the group goes camping to discuss plans); no discussion of the action except when it is absolutely necessary.
2. Outside group meetings, involved individuals are free to discuss the action in surveillance-free spaces.
3. Discussions are permitted in homes not definitely under surveillance.
4. Communication by encrypted email or on neutral telephone lines is

acceptable.
5. People can speak about the action over telephones, email, etc. provided they're careful not to give away certain details—who, what, when, where.
6. Telephones, email, etc. are all fair game; email listservs, fliering in public spaces, announcements to newspapers, etc. may or may not be acceptable, on a case-by-case basis.
7. Communication and proclamation by every possible medium are encouraged.

While the wikileaks and Snowden leaks have demonstrated the vast extent of surveillance in our modern life, tools to circumvent the efforts of intelligence services have been developed by activists around the world. Three easy to use methods of communicating online are Internet Relay Chat (IRC), the Onion Router (TOR), and Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) key-encrypted email.

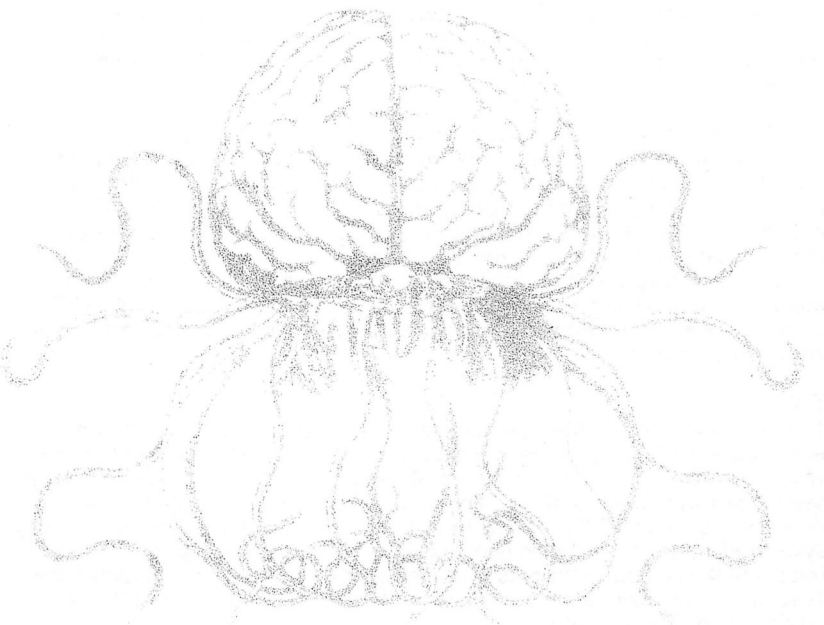
IRC The details of your Live chat provided by Yahoo, Windows, Skype and Gmail are regularly made available to law enforcement agencies. IRC is a tried and tested way of live / instant message chatting. Users install an IRC client or connect via a webpage and it is possible to chat in an encrypted way. IRC channels can be hosted for free on a large range of servers, and can be used to communicate with groups of people. If used properly, they can be very difficult to surveil and trace. A lot of techies, free culture and software enthusiasts, media activists, hacker and crackers use this technology. XChat is a great IRC programme which comes with Ubuntu and is easy to install on Mac. MIRC is an equivalent for windows.

TOR
TOR was developed by the USA Navy to protect their internet traffic from eavesdropping. It is a protocol which protects users' web traffic (like the sites you have visited or your account details) being watched by a third party like your service provider or ASIO. TOR can be used by several web browsers as a downloadable add-on. It is also used by the TAILS project. TAILS is an operating system which can be installed on to a usb, providing anonymous and amnesiac (meaning the computer 'forgets' you ever used it) internet and computer use. TOR (and TAILS) have some drawbacks and limitations; please read the how-to guides on the TOR website.

PGP Key-encrypted email
Despite its name, PGP is an extremely secure encryption method for sending emails. You will need to use OpenPGP or something similar. There are two parts to PGP encryption; the public key and the private key. It is OK to send your PUBLIC KEY to people, they can only use it to encrypt messages, not to decrypt them. NEVER SEND YOUR PASSPHRASE OR YOUR PRIVATE KEY TO ANYONE; keep them secret. Before sending an email with sensitive data, you MUST make sure that you encrypt the data. On your new message, go to the OpenPGP menu and select "Encrypt message", and make sure it is CHECKED. Only the sender and the

recipient have seen this message! Nobody who has intercepted the message will be able to read it, they will know the From and To email addresses, but they will not be able to read the content of the message.

For a more complete guide to safe online communication, read http://activistsguide.blogspot.com.au/



Some ideas from Starhawk

Disruption of social and sports activities
General administrative non-cooperation
Overloading of administrative systems
Performances of plays and music
Mock awards, mock elections
Withdrawal of bank deposits
Humorous skits and pranks
Collective disappearance
Property destruction
Lysistratic non action
Prayer and worship
Consumers' boycott
"Haunting" officials
Political mourning
Excommunication
Office occupation
Taunting officials
Rent withholding
Guerrilla theatre
General strike
Student strike
Protest strike
Street parties
Stay-at-home
Mock funeral
Picketing
Teach-in
Mutiny

What is G20?
G20 stands for the Group of 20 largest economies. finance ministers, heads of state, and governors of central Banks are sent from 19 countries (the European Union is the 20th member) to an annual conference. At these conferences the parties discuss and develop global economic policy.

Who is involved?
Member states are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America. The EU is collectively the 20th member. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are also represented, among other invited organisations.

What are its goals?
Neoliberalism is an ideology that guides many of the G20's decisions. It became the dominant approach to organising the economy in the 1980s, and argues that by allowing capital (by which we mean accumulated material wealth and the means of producing it) to move globally, a wealthier and more productive society will emerge. However, neoliberal policies lead to increased corporate control, and to increased levels of inequality between the rich and the poor - both locally and internationally. Neoliberal policies include cuts to social services and support, a reduction of tariffs and the privatisation of the public sector - including health care, education, social services and environmental protection.

What does it do?
While the G20 has no permanent staff or administrative infrastructure and does not commit member nations to binding agreements, the group's decisions have enormous influence on global economic policy. From tariff rates to labor laws and pollution controls, G20 decisions affect the government policies and international treaties that affect us all.

Why should we fight them?
1. The G20 is fundamentally undemocratic: elite technocrats from a tiny minority of the world's nations make decisions under a veil of secrecy which ultimately affect us all. The global community has virtually no input or oversight on the process.
2. The G20 fosters poverty, perpetuates the colonial model of extracting the material and human wealth of poor countries for the benefit of rich nations, and seeks to undermine the hard-won rights of workers everywhere.
3. The G20's policies are killing our planet, by impeding quick action on climate change, promoting deregulation, and prioritising economic growth over human welfare and environmental stability.

Be bold. Be careful